

Summary – Board Budget Committee Meeting

March 28, 2017

Government Center – Conference Room 11

Committee Members Present:

Sharon Bulova, Chairman
Penelope Gross, Mason District (Vice Chairman)
John Cook, Braddock District
John Foust, Dranesville District
Pat Herrity, Springfield District
Catherine Hudgins, Hunter Mill District
Jeff McKay, Lee District (Committee Chair)
Kathy Smith, Sully District
Linda Smyth, Providence District
Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District

Summary of Previous Meeting (March 21, 2017)

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/board-committees/meetings/2017/mar21-budget-summary.pdf>

March 28, 2017 Meeting Agenda:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/workshops/budget-committee-agenda-03-28-2017.pdf>

March 28, 2017 Meeting Materials:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/workshops/human-services-council-fy2018-budget-rec-letter.pdf>

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/workshops/hsc-fy2018-budget-presentation.pdf>

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/workshops/fy2018-advertised-itspac-letter-bos.pdf>

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 P.M.

After a brief introduction by Supervisor McKay, the first presentation on the agenda, *Human Services Council Budget Presentation* is given by Jeff Dannick, Vice Chair, Human Services Council Budget Committee after an introduction by Kevin Bell, Chair, Human Services Council (HSC). The HSC letter is the first document linked above and their powerpoint presentation is the second document linked above under *March 28, 2017 Meeting Materials*.

Presentation Highlights:

- Mr. Dannick walks through powerpoint presentation which is the second document linked above under *March 28, 2017 Meeting Materials*.
- He notes the County is at a tipping point in Human Services. County must continue to invest in programs and services and that the Health and Human Services (HHS) system needs to achieve greater efficiency, innovation and collaboration.

- He requests funds to support:
 - Diversion First;
 - \$250K for a HHS Resource Plan – a five year strategic plan to proactively match critical needs with available resources;
 - Opioid Epidemic; and
 - Contract rate increases (suggesting that the County consider reallocating \$500K in contributory funding designated for the INOVA Transitional Medicine Institute (ITMI).
- Also supports establishment of a transition (contingency) fund to protect the HHS system from potential federal cuts.
- Summarizes by stating that “Fairfax County thrives when all residents can participate in the economic and social mainstream. Our Health and Human Services System moves families, schools and neighborhoods toward good health, self-sufficiency and productivity that contribute to a robust economy and quality of life for everyone. We are One Fairfax”

Discussion:

- The Board inquired about need for Human Resource Plan. CEX Ed Long notes the planning value of the Public Safety Staffing Plan and the Stormwater Plan, and states that a similar plan for human services would have value.
- Discussion ensued on the opioid epidemic. **Supervisor Gross asks the following Budget Q&A: Please provide information about what is being done in terms of a regional response as it pertains to the opioid epidemic.** The Board noted that the opioid epidemic is beyond just Fairfax County.
- Discussion ensued about the human services-related “needs assessment” report that was issued last year. Kevin Bell and Deputy County Executive Pat Harrison respond. Supervisor Gross wants to make sure that any new HHS Resource Plan is not repetitive to what has just been completed and that Fairfax is on the leading edge and thinking long term in this area.
- An extended discussion ensued on the value of the INOVA Transitional Medicine Institute (ITMI) partnership and the \$500K in funding the County has earmarked for that purpose. Several Board members stated that the investment in ITMI is a long-term well thought out commitment that the County should not go back on. The dollars are important but the County’s commitment to be a partner on this Economic Development project is critical. Supervisor Smyth reminds that there was supposed to be a reporting mechanism as part of the ITMI agreement, and would like to see how the County’s funds are being spent. There is significant back and forth amongst the Board about this topic but general consensus that the above proposed reallocation of \$500K is not in the County’s best interest.
- The Board notes that as part of the LOBS process, a discussion was started about the processes for funding County organizations and groups. Supervisor McKay noted that we need to revisit that conversation as parting of the ongoing LOBS process, to include more robust evaluation, metrics and standards.
- **Chairman Bulova stated that she would like to put forward the HSC request as a consideration item for the FY 2018 Add On process,** even though she is not supportive of the \$500K reallocation. Jeff Dannick clarifies the HSC’s position on ITMI – they are not at all opposed to ITMI’s work or goals. Both are important. They just wanted to put the reallocation of the funds forward as an option for consideration.

- Discussion ensued on the importance of Pre-K programming. Supervisor Hudgins noted that she is going to continue to focus on the need for additional funding/programming for this needy population.
- Kevin Bell noted the at-risk nature of \$125M in funds that are from federal sources. Specifically notes CDBG, CSBG and HOME funds are at risk. The Board responded that the sequestration reserve was created in response to an “at-risk” or “contingency” situation, and although we may not be there yet (in terms of the need to create a contingency reserve for this purpose), this situation is something to be monitored. The Board also reiterated that the County is simply not going to be able to pick up everything the Federal or State government cut.
- The discussion circled back to the HHS Resource Plan, specifically a concern raised by Supervisor Storck about the ability to produce a plan that is actionable. DCEX Pat Harrison responded that they will work to provide the additional information he is seeking and reiterated that there is a critical need to have a planning document to make informed fiscal decisions going forward. Kevin Bell noted that recent studies, primarily in the public safety area, have provided the Board with critical information that resulted in additional public safety investments. He believes a similar document is needed in the human services area to help steer the conversation going forward.
- **Supervisor McKay asks the following Budget Q&A: Please provide additional information as well as the methodology used to develop the fiscal impact of contract rate adjustments in the Human Services system.**

Following that discussion, Chief Financial Officer Joseph Mondoro noted that the annual letter from the Information Technology Planning and Advisory Committee (ITPAC) was posted online and included in the Board’s package. The ITPAC letter is the third document linked above under *March 28, 2017 Meeting Materials*. Chief Information Officer Wanda Gibson introduced three ITPAC members present and thanked them for their work in this important area. The Board did not have any questions on the ITPAC letter.

CEX Long noted that the annual budget public hearings are next week on April 4, 5 and 6, and informed the Board that Tuesday April 4 is already full. He noted that the county will be undertaking a pilot program on video testimony as part of the budget hearings this year. He stated this will be the first foray into this area, and some details are still to be worked out but he is excited about the future possibilities for this technology. Supervisor Storck noted his support of this initiative and thinks it will be of value going forward.

The next meeting of the Board Budget Committee is scheduled for 1:00 P.M. on Friday, 4/21/2017.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 P.M.